

Application No. 10/734,042

Docket No. 000300-804

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were originally submitted for examination. In the aforementioned Office action, claims 1-3, and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Jalali et al. (US 6,724,783) in view of Delfyett et al. (US 6,671,298). Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4-6 and 10-12 were said to be allowable if rewritten in a form independent of the rejected claims.

By this amendment, claims 4 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, incorporating all the features of the respective claims from which they depended. Rejected independent claims 1 and 9 have been cancelled and rejected dependent claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from claim 4 instead of from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-6 and 10-12 should be allowable without further substantive examination.

In addition, new claim 13 includes the features of original claim 1 and the principal features of allowable claim 4. Claim 13 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claim 4 was said to be allowable.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 8, which was filed as dependent on claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 8 and is submitted for reconsideration and reexamination. In particular, the presence of a nonlinear optical converter operating as a thresholding device is not believed to be disclosed or suggested by the cited art. The Examiner asserts that "controlling the system to produce an 'on' or 'off' mode states is mentioned in equivalent form by Jalali et al. in col. 6, lines 63-64, in describing the system as an optical filter." The cited passage in the reference mentions in passing only that "spectral shaping device 20 is

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an optical filter." It is unclear how this pertains to claims 7 and 8, and particularly to claim 8, which recited a nonlinear optical converter functioning as a thresholding device. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 8 (now incorporated into claim 7) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2-7 and 10-13 are all believed to be allowable and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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